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CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1951

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Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman : MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman : MRS. COUNCILLOR E. JONES

MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON, JNR.

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MR. COUNCILLOR D. M. WHITEHOUSE

MR. COUNCILLOR F. TURNER

MR. COUNCILLOR J. DEAN

MR. COUNCILLOR F. ROWLEY

MRS. COUNCILLOR M. L. ROWLEY

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

R. WEBSTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M&H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector :

FRED TURNER, C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat
and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : RALPH HEATH, C.R.S.I.

Staff of the Local Health Authority working in the Cannock District

Health Visitors

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., S.R.N.

MRS. S. LEACH, S.R.N.

MRS. M. E. VAUGHAN, S.R.N. (Resigned 20/8/51)

MRS. H. M. THOMSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V.

MISS M. BRENNAN, S.R.N. (Resigned 28/7/51)

MRS. H. M. BOX, S.R.N.

Part-Time Officers

Oculist : G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon : NEWTON HEATH, F.R.C.S.

Orthopaedic Masseuse : Miss F. M. BARNES, C.S.M M.G.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the people of the Urban District of Cannock for the year 1951.

The Birth Rate was maintained at about the same figure (18.81/18.69) as in the previous year, which is considerably higher than the national average of 15.86. There appears to be a levelling out here, however, after a steady fall following the record post war figures in 1946 and 1947.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is somewhat less than in the foregoing twelve months, and continues the steady downward trend, which is most welcome in this important index.

For the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths. This increase in the safety of mothers in childbirth is one of the most satisfactory features of modern Medicine, and reflects great credit, both in ante-natal care, and in the actual conduct of the confinements.

The General Death Rate was 11.93. Analysis of this figure shows an increasing preponderance of old age, and the degenerative conditions associated therewith, and a corresponding diminution of diseases which carry people off in earlier age groups.

The improved position with regard to the control of pulmonary tuberculosis is shown in the figures for deaths from this disease (12 as against 17) and for new cases (36 as against 48) as compared with the previous year. The Housing Committee continue to give from time to time consideration to rehousing patients with tuberculosis—each case being treated on its merits.

With regard to major infectious disease, the district was fortunate in having no poliomyelitis. A sharp outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred at a Nursery School in the district, but was soon brought under control. Scarlet Fever continued to be mild in

type. In the early part of the year Whooping Cough was specially prevalent, and in common with the rest of the Country Cannock had a high notification rate. In May and June Measles assumed epidemic proportions. The outbreak was, however, short lived, and by July had completely subsided. Four cases of Diphtheria were admitted to hospital during the year. All made uneventful recoveries.

Bacteriological control of the cleanliness of catering establishments was fully established during the year, as a preventive measure against gastro intestinal infections which have been more frequent in post war years.

The customary high standard of bacteriological and chemical purity of the towns water supply has been consistently maintained.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank members of the Public Health Committee for their kind co-operation and advice, and the staff of the Public Health Department for loyal service throughout the year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

R. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres	8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1951 Census ...		40,927
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year		40,810
Rateable Value, 29th May, 1952	£	179,209
Product of Penny Rate	£	698
Nett Births		768
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population		18.81
Net Deaths allocated to the district—		
Under one year of age		27
At all ages		489
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...		35.93
Death Rates (at all ages)		11.93
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year		10,318

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

DATE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	18 AND OVER	UNDER 18	18 AND OVER	UNDER 18	
12-3-51	53	6	50	6	115
18-6-51	31	3	53	10	102
17-9-51	40	3	51	10	104
10-12-51	32	1	62	29	124

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	...	...	720	354	366
Live Births, illegitimate	...	...	33	18	15
Still Births, legitimate	...	...	14	8	6
Still Births, illegitimate	...	...	1	-	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	18.81
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)					18.45
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)					15.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)					0.36
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (still births)	...				0.36
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	1.03

				Total	M	F
Total Deaths	...	...	...	489	264	225
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...			11.93
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...			12.5
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.15

Maternal Mortality

				Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	
		Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	0.00	0.10	
Others	...	—	0.00	0.69	
		—	—	—	
Total	...	—	0.00	0.79	

Infant Mortality

		Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	England & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age:—				
All infants per 1,000 live births		27	35.93	29.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	26	36.11	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	1	30.30	—

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

					Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		
					Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	...	...	...	...	54	1.32	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	0.02	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00
Influenza	...	...	...	...	19	0.46	0.38
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	1.4

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services by the Local Health Authority within the Cannock Urban District

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	...	...	...	270
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	857
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	8,348

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	49	117	17	1,124	535
Hednesford	51	118	13	1,439	817
Chadsmoor	51	91	13	1,136	534
Wimblebury	26	43	19	290	274
Heath Hayes	23	43	13	495	412
Hazel Slade	26	53	20	394	264
Totals	226	465	95	4,878	2,836

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Four Ante-Natal Clinics are now held—one at Hednesford every Thursday morning, one at Cannock every Tuesday afternoon, one at Chadsmoor every Friday morning, and one at Wimblebury Thursdays fortnightly.

	Hednes- ford	Chads- moor	Can- nock	Wimble- bury	Total
Primary Attendances ...	181	91	174	14	460
Re-attendances ...	726	438	792	62	2,018
Total Attendances ...	907	529	966	76	2,478
No. of Sessions ...	51	50	49	26	177
Aver. No. per Session	17	10	19	3	49

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases were notified.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were: Premature birth, 6; Congenital malformations and birth injuries, 3; Broncho-pneumonia and Pneumonia, 8; Asphyxia, 4; Bronchitis, 1; Toxaemia, 2; Uraemia, 1; Melana Neonatorum, 1; Cerebro spinal meningitis, 1.

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Birth Rates	21.44	21.15	21.38	20.55	21.72	23.69	22.49	19.49	18.69	18.81
I.M. Rates	52.0	44.27	54.23	37.91	61.86	50.05	39.8	36.3	36.8	35.93
M.M. Rates	8.75	1.27	6.14	2.61	2.4	0.00	2.19	0.00	0.00	0.00

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, who continue to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Two cases were notified.

SECTION C Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

Four cases were notified, compared with five in the previous year. All four cases were removed to hospital.

SCARLET FEVER

46 cases were notified, compared with 25 in the previous year. 26 were removed to hospital, and there were no fatal cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

No cases were notified. There was one fatal case.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases were notified.

ENTERIC FEVER

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

PNEUMONIA

Six cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 19 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

576 cases of measles were notified, with one fatal case.

There were 135 cases of Whooping Cough, with one fatal case.

CANCER

There were 54 deaths from Cancer, six less than in the previous year.

DYSENTRY

35 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	1	...	...	1	2	...	..	1	...	1
5—15	1	1	2	...	4	...	..	...	...	...
15—25	8	7	..	...	15	...	2	1	...	3
25—35	4	2	2	...	8	1	3	...	...	4
35—45	3	2	2	...	7	2	...	1	...	3
45—55	1	...	..	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
55—65	6	...	...	..	6	1	...	...	.	1
65 & up	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Total	24	12	6	1	43	6	6	3	...	15

There were 12 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, five less than in the previous year, and three from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The incidence of the pulmonary and non-pulmonary locations of the disease is set out below :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1950	23	25	—	1
1951	24	12	6	1

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows :

The Limes, Himley Sanatorium	...	...	2
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	7
Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	3
Newcastle Isolation Hospital	...	...	3
St. Wulston's, Malvern	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1951

					Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	6	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	3	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	1	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	8	6
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	...	...	...	7	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	10
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	4
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	8	9
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	31	30
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	25	20
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	4
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	40	37
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	17	12
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	11	8
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	27	21
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory	...	...	...	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	6	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	5	4
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	28	29
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	5	—
34.	All Other Accidents	...	...	...	7	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	3	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—
Totals					264	225

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals ...	...	109
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	...	7
Defective water closets and drains ...	...	178
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance ...	...	4
Dirty Yards ...	...	8
Dirty dwelling houses ...	...	11
Dirty bedding ...	...	6
Dwelling houses needing repair ...	...	291
Dwelling houses without a water supply ...	...	3
Dwelling houses overcrowded ...	...	6
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year ...	...	282

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

2	Water closets substituted for 2 dilapidated water closets.
4	Water closets substituted for 4 pail closets.
4	Pail closets dispensed with.
6	New water closet floors.
75	Water closets put in order.
34	New water closet pans.
14	New water closet seats.
6	New water closet flushing cisterns.
34	Water closet flushing cisterns repaired.
2	Choked water closets opened.
61	Choked drains opened.
33	Yards of new drains on 5 premises.
10	Drains repaired.
650	New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins.
11	New gullies and grids provided.
8	Water closet pans cleansed.
18	Water closet compartments redecorated.
2	Drain inspection chambers rebuilt.
6	New drain inspection chambers constructed.
9	New drain inspection chamber covers provided.
4	Drain ventilating shafts repaired.
6	Drains ventilated.
10	New sanitary pails provided.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1.—The number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

(1) Housing Inspections	49
(2) District Inspections	4,237

Inspection of Bakehouses	86
„ „ Dairies	52
„ „ Milk Shops	60
„ „ Milk Floats	17
„ „ Restaurant Kitchens	119
„ „ Fried Fish Shops	54
„ „ Shops	162
„ „ Meat Shops	427
„ „ Grocers' Shops	197
„ „ Meat Distribution Centre	152
„ „ Markets	186
„ „ Factories	178
„ „ Knacker's Yard	42
„ „ Public Conveniences	167
„ „ Works for abatement of nuisances	1,856
„ „ Works for abatement of housing repairs	849
„ „ Ice-cream premises	437
„ „ Complaints investigated	224
„ „ Water courses	15
„ „ Tips	17
„ „ Living Vans	39
„ „ Pithead baths	8
„ „ Spoilbanks	36
„ „ Canal Boats—Wharves	8
„ „ Camping Grounds	3
„ „ Mortuaries	18
„ „ Making-up Rooms (Food)	271
„ „ Canteens, Cafés, etc.	201
„ „ Fishmongers' premises	156
„ „ Meat Stalls	218
„ „ Offices	41

2.—The number of Notices served during the year

Informal	450
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45	39
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	166
Statutory, Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	2

3.—Results of Service

Number of Nuisances abated	389
Notices not complied with	84

In the case of the Notices not complied with, repairs are already in hand in a considerable number of these premises, but not completed.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of parts of the area where no sewers are available, the sanitary accommodation is on the water carriage system. Some dwelling houses in this area have water closets drained to cesspools, others have chemical closets or sanitary pails—these are emptied regularly by the Cleansing Department.

The Council continue to provide and maintain dustbins under a Scheme in accordance with Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936. An annual charge of 4/- per annum is made for each bin. Since this Scheme was commenced in 1940 the Council have provided 6,818 dustbins.

	End of 1950	End of 1951
Water Closets	12,028	12,145
Dustbins	10,288	10,385
Privies	1	1
Privy Ashpits	1	1
Privy Pans	149	145
Cesspools	169	170

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Five Ladies and Gents conveniences and seven urinals are conveniently situated in the area. These are cleaned regularly by the department. Lady attendants are employed at the Cannock Market Place and Hednesford Victoria Street conveniences.

In July, 1951, the old conveniences at Victoria Street, Hednesford, were demolished and new conveniences provided.

As reported in previous years, damage—wanton damage—to conveniences still occurs.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

Dairies and Milk Shops	41
Purveyors of Milk from other districts selling milk in this area	9
Bakehouses	20
Slaughterhouses	24
Butchers' Shops	42
Meat Stalls	7
Fried Fish Shops	50
Tents, Vans and Sheds	25
Mortuaries	2
Knackers' Yard	1
Factories	108

CANAL BOATS

On occasions when visits were made to the wharves in the area no registered boats were seen. It appears the transport of coal is chiefly done by road and rail.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	291
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	372
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	49
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	125
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	275

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	110
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	15
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By local authority in default of Owners ...	0
	Work is in hand on 12 of the dwelling houses concerned.	
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Act :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	131
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	76
(b)	By local authority in default of Owners ...	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

UNFIT HOUSES

Number Demolished:—

Individual Unfits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Situation of Houses Demolished

St. Luke's Ward:—

80, 80a, 82, 84, 86, 88 and 90 Mill Street, Cannock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Clearance Order.
5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Clearance Order.

St. Chad's Ward:—

Van No. 2, Moss Road, Chadsmoor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Voluntary.
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St. John's Ward:—

91 Stafford Street, Heath Hayes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Demolition Order.
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Situation of Houses represented for Demolition

St. Chad's Ward:—

Van No. 1, Moss Road, Chadsmoor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Van No. 2, Moss Road, Chadsmoor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

St. Luke's Ward:—

No. 1 Bungalow, Spring Street, Cannock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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RE-DEVELOPMENT AREA, WIMBLEBURY

The Council on 23rd May, 1950, in pursuance of their powers under Section 34 of the Housing Act, 1936, prepared a re-development plan in respect of part of the village of Wimblebury.

The approximate area covered by the plan is 15 acres in which there were 143 existing houses. The number of houses proposed is 86.

It is also proposed to make use of the existing roads and services as far as possible and to extend the period of development over a term of approximately 5 years.

The plan, as modified after a public inquiry, was approved by the Minister of Local Government and Planning on 12th February, 1951.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Forty-nine houses were inspected; forty-two were found to be damp, none dirty and two overcrowded.

The number of persons per house was 3.9 with 1.01 rooms per person, or 194 persons to 196 rooms.

HOUSES ERECTED

- 4 Bungalows were built by private enterprise.
- 12 Houses were built by private enterprise.
- 59 Houses were built by the local authority.
- 22 Permanent bungalows were erected by the local authority.

HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Houses re-spouted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Houses re-pointed, roughcast or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	398
New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
New quarry and concrete floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
New wood floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wood floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
New windows and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
New doors fitted and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Handrails fitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Stair treads renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Foodstores ventilated and lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks and sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
New coppers and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Hot water systems provided or put in order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Yards paved and paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sculleries repaired and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Coalstores repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Horizontal damp proof courses provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920 to 1939

Section 2 (2) of Act of 1920

Fifteen applications were received from tenants under the above mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted. Ten certificates were granted.

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

A survey was made during the year of all the living vans and tents within the area, and it was found that there were 24 vans and one tent. Of these, two vans and one tent are included in a confirmed Clearance Order. and a Demolition Order has been made on one van.

FOOD INSPECTION

Unsound Food Condemned

During the year 1951 the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption. All was surrendered at the time of inspection.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Pigs		2	0	26	0
Tinned Ham		12	1	26	2
Fish			2	8	0
Bacon and Ham		1	3	3	5
Butter				13	8
Cheese			1	26	6
Luncheon Meat			2	7	1
Chicken				2	6
Sultanas and Currants			1	3	0
Pork				1	8
Eggs (64)					
Peas				15	14
Beans				8	8
Spaghetti				7	0
Tinned and Bottled Food		7	0	8	7
Tomatoes		2	1	18	7
Jellies				21	4
Milk (41½ gallons)		3	3	7	15
	1	12	1	8	11

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Section 13

Foodshops

Inspection of foodshops was constantly carried out in 1951. The department was responsible in securing the following improvements:—

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AT FOOD PREMISES
Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Sec. 13 Sub-sec	Improvements	General Dealers	Grocers	Butchers	Green- grocers	Chemists	Fried Fish Shops	Confec- tioners	Total
(a)	Intervening ventilated space provided ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Water Closets cleaned ...	4	3	1	—	—	—	1	9
(c)	Walls and ceilings repaired ...	7	2	3	2	1	1	—	16
	Floors renewed or repaired ...	4	1	3	1	2	2	—	13
	Windows repaired ...	2	2	—	—	—	4	—	8
	Doors repaired ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
(d)	Rooms redecorated ...	26	5	9	7	1	5	1	54
(g)	Store rooms cleaned ...	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	8
	Counters cleaned ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Floors cleaned ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Yards cleaned ...	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	6
	Refuse removed ...	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	6
(h)	Utensils cleaned ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
(i)	Sinks or wash basins provided ...	5	6	2	3	3	1	1	21
	Soap and towels provided ...	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	6
	Drainage improved ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Water heaters installed ...	5	10	1	4	2	—	—	22

Dogs in Foodshops, etc.

As recommended in a Ministry of Food Circular, notices were distributed to foodshops for display purposes. In all cases the occupiers welcomed this step in an attempt to prevent the unhygienic practice of allowing dogs in such shops.

Canteens, Cafés and Restaurants

All canteens, cafés and restaurants are kept under constant supervision. The standard laid down in Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is strictly adhered to. Hygiene tests of the utensils and samples of the washing-up water are frequently taken. Reports of these tests are given monthly to the Public Health Committee.

Catering Licences

Notifications from the Ministry of Food were received of applications for catering licences. Altogether 43 applications were dealt with. The premises concerned were inspected and reports submitted to the Public Health Committee. Where alterations or improvements were required, the applicants were accordingly advised.

Public Houses

The 42 licenced premises in the area are visited frequently, particular attention being paid to the washing facilities, sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness. Bacteriological examination of the glasses and sinks are made.

Improvements were carried out during the year at several premises. The Brewery Companies are always co-operative when called upon to carry out improvements.

Fish Friers

There are 50 fish friers in the area. Following visits to these premises it was found necessary to request certain occupiers to carry out improvements.

Slaughterhouses, Meat Shops and Meat Vans

Of the 24 slaughterhouses in the area, only a few were occasionally used during the year. This was for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs. Visits were made when slaughtering took place.

The area is supplied with meat from the Ministry of Food abattoir at Walsall. After being delivered to a Meat Distribution Centre at Cannock, it is re-distributed to the butchers' shops in modern ventilated vans.

The meat shops, meat stalls, vans and making-up rooms are visited frequently.

Markets

Following the acquisition during 1950 of the large open market at Cannock, the Council during 1951 acquired the smaller market adjoining. In the large open market are closed type and open stalls. Food traders (except fruiterers) occupy permanent closed type stalls—in these, sinks are provided with water laid over. The occupiers have themselves provided either electric water heaters or kettles. The permanent stalls have electricity for lighting and heating.

One other market is provided at Hednesford and is privately owned. If this market is to continue, improvements will have to be carried out.

MILK

There are eight premises registered as dairies (not being dairy farms) and 50 registered distributors of milk in the area. Frequent visits were made to these premises and samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination. In all cases where unsatisfactory reports are received, a copy of the report is sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Milk Section) for appropriate action.

The following are the details of the samples taken in 1951 :—

From vans in course of delivery	15
From dairies	119
From dairies—bulk milk	8
From dairies—pasteurisation plant	8

150 samples were taken and 44 proved unsatisfactory—the majority of these were taken prior to pasteurisation.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS, 1949

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences have been granted to sell the under-mentioned designated milks :—

Tuberculin Tested	18
Pasteurised	31
Sterilised	37

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 THE ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947

Ices and Ice-Cream

The registered premises for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream in the area are :—

Premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream by the hot-mix method	2
Premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream by the cold-mix method	9
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	140

Of the 140 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, practically all the ice-cream sold is in cartons or wrapped blocks and is stored in refrigerators.

During the year 74 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Particulars of these are as follows:—

Number of samples taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for manufacture and sale ...	25
Number of samples taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for sale only	49
Number of samples manufactured by the hot-mix method	26
Number of samples manufactured by the cold-mix method	6
Number of samples where the method of manufacture was not known (ice-cream manufactured outside the Urban District)	42

On bacteriological examination the results were:—

			Number of Samples.	
			Manufactured in District	Manufactured outside District
Grade One	...	...	11	24
Grade Two	...	...	8	8
Grade Three	...	...	4	6
Grade Four	...	...	7	6

19 samples of "Frozen Lollies" were taken. No prohibited colour was present, nor were any coliform organisms present in 0.3 c.c.

All the premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream were constantly under supervision throughout the year. The vans of vendors who come into the area from adjacent districts were also inspected.

WATER

With the exception of one house which is condemned as unfit for human habitation, the water supply for the area is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. (Nineteen samples of water were taken and these proved bacteriologically and chemically satisfactory). The house in question obtains water from a shallow well and advice has been given as to the precautions to be taken.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

162 visits were made of shops to ascertain if the requirements of the Shops Act, 1950, were being carried out. Particular attention was paid to the arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers. Observations were also made throughout the area to make certain the closing hours were observed. Any contravention of the Act is reported to the Public Health Committee.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The factories in the area are visited periodically; there are 128 factories on the register, including factory bakehouses.

**1.—Inspection of factories made for the purposes of provisions
as to health**

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	14	18	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	114	160	4	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	128	178	6	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable tempera- ture	...	...	.	..	...
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	3	1	...	1	...
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	9	9	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	...	1	...
Other offences (not in- cluding offences in relation to homework)	...	...	...	...	...
Total	14	12*	...	2	...

* Of the outstanding two, the firms concerned have agreed to have work put in hand as soon as possible.

OUTWORKERS

No lists received during the year.

OFFICES

Visits were made periodically to offices in the area, attention being paid to the sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. Conditions found were satisfactory.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The work in connection with the investigation of atmospheric pollution was continued daily by the Department. Instruments in use were two Deposit Gauges, six Lead Peroxide Gauges and one combined Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus. With these instruments it is possible to assess the deposited atmosphere impurity and the sulphur gasses in the air.

The records of sulphur pollution at all the sites in the area showed a decrease from those of the previous year. On the other hand, the deposited impurities at Bridgtown and Littleworth increased.

Results obtained from the various instruments are set out in Tables I, II and III on pages 26 and 27; graphs are also shown on page 28.

TABLE I

Deposit Gauges—Records of Deposits

Month	Deposits in Tons per Square Mile per Month	
	Bridgtown	Littleworth
January	15·04	21·86
February	16·50	21·90
March	27·99	38·77
April	17·99	17·96
May	24·90	18·91
June	*	21·10
July	15·82	15·47
August	16·30	22·17
September	12·45	18·59
October	16·16	13·31
November	27·03	32·22
December	13·79	21·18
Totals	203·97	263·44
Monthly average, 1951 ..	*18·54	19·70
Monthly average, 1950 ..	13·19	16·19

* The Analyst's figure for the month of June (72·03) recorded by the Bridgtown Gauge is not included. This high figure was due to presence of a "considerable amount of sand."

TABLE II

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day

Month	Bridg- town	Cannock	Pye Green	Hednes- ford	Wimble- bury	Rumer Hill
January ..	1.78	1.36	1.49	1.43	1.89	2.15
February ..	1.44	2.01	1.23	1.41	1.92	2.31
March ..	1.23	0.87	0.63	1.06	1.47	1.68
April ..	1.07	0.69	0.76	0.78	1.23	1.73
May ..	1.01	0.70	0.77	0.73	1.21	1.27
June ..	1.03	0.52	0.63	0.78	1.05	1.55
July ..	0.63	0.23	0.31	0.43	0.78	0.69
August ..	0.47	0.52	0.50	0.41	0.68	0.82
September	0.72	0.53	0.53	0.61	1.03	1.18
October ..	1.07	0.74	1.01	0.84	1.40	1.43
November	1.33	0.98	0.92	1.11	1.49	1.78
December	1.40	1.35	1.05	1.33	1.59	2.05
Totals	13.18	10.50	9.83	10.92	15.74	18.64

MONTHLY AVERAGE						
1951 ..	1.09	0.87	0.81	0.91	1.3	1.55
1950 ..	1.30	0.91	1.05	1.12	1.73	1.84

TABLE III

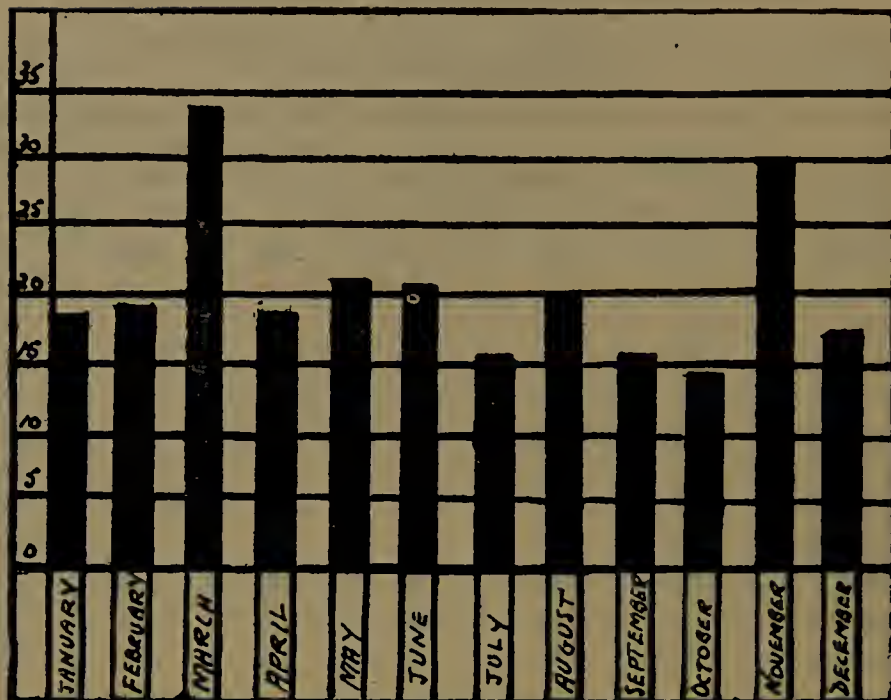
Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

Monthly average concentrations of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

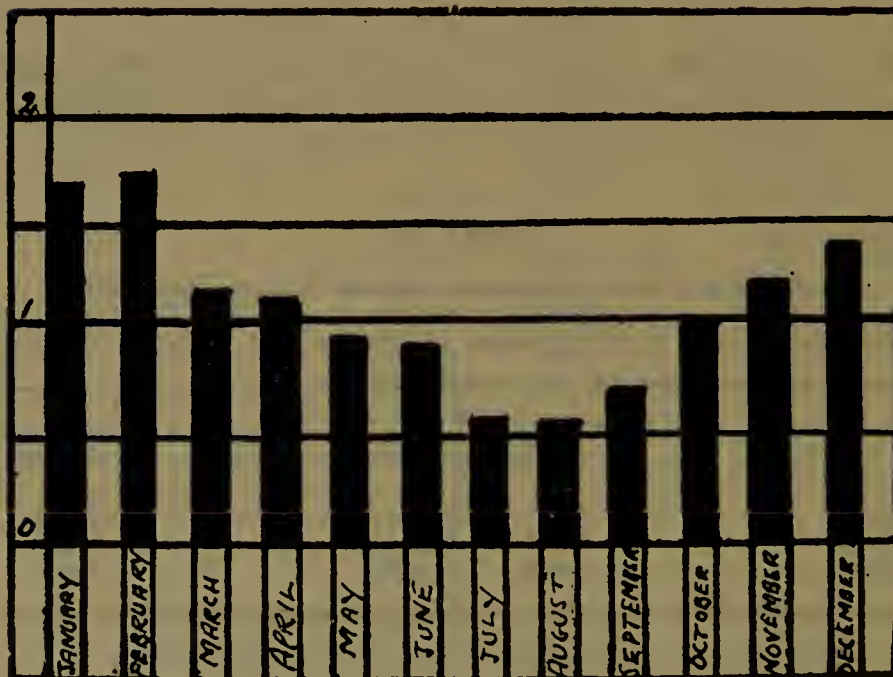
Smoke			Milligrammes per cu. metre	Sulphur Dioxide			Parts per Million
Average	..	..	0.017	Average	..	..	0.028
Highest	..	..	0.434	Highest	..	..	0.131
Lowest	..	..	0.008	Lowest	..	..	0.003

This does not include the month of December.

Deposit Gauges, 1951
Seasonal Incidence (Averages)
(Tons Square Mile per month)



Lead Peroxide Gauges, 1951
(Sulphur Dioxide)
Seasonal Incidence (Averages)
M/Grms/SO³/100Sq.Cms/Day



SPOILBANKS

Observations made of the spoilbanks during 1951 showed that, due to the attention given by the National Coal Board, no real nuisance existed. The prevention of smoke and emission of gasses from the spoilbanks was chiefly brought about by continuously spraying the surfaces with water.

DISINFESTATION

The homes of all selected applicants are visited to ascertain whether disinfestation of furniture, furnishings, etc., is necessary prior to removal to Council houses.

In 20 cases it was found necessary to do this work. The Council has its own disinfestation van, and members of the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department are qualified to carry out such work. Disinfestation of furniture is by means of Hydrogen Cyanide Gas (Cyanosorb), and bedding and soft furnishings by means of steam disinfection.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's Depot was in use on 54 days during the year. The number of articles disinfected or disinfested totalled 640.

Requests were received from adjoining authorities to carry out, on their behalf, steam disinfection of bedding. This work is always appreciated by the authorities concerned, as they have no facilities available.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year 1951 the following results were obtained by our Rodent Operator :—

Poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	1135
Partial poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	620
Dead rats found	...	...	...	...	...	446
Premises dealt with by Cymag and Rockets	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rats found	...	...	...	...	...	32

133 sewer manholes were treated. There were 4 good takes; 129 manholes were clear.

257 Block Surveys were carried out during the year, and in these surveys the following premises were dealt with:—

Dwelling Houses	218
Business Premises	80
Council Premises	42
Brook courses	16
Markets	18

KNACKER'S YARD

There is only one Knacker's Yard in the area—situated in Walk Mill Lane, Bridgtown. Regular visits were made during the year, when the premises were found to be clean and well maintained.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Two new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade, and 72 were renewed during the year for persons to stun animals intended for human consumption.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE ERECTION OF PIGSTIES

Seven applications were received from occupiers of premises for permission to erect pigsties, and six were granted.

STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES

Periodical inspections were made of the streams and watercourses in the area and conditions found to be satisfactory.

CAMP SITE

There is only one permanent site in the area for camping purposes—this is situated in Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood, and is used by Scouts. Modern sanitation and an adequate water supply is provided, and on visits being made the site was found to be clean and well maintained.

MORTUARIES

There are two mortuaries in the area, one at Cannock and one at Hednesford. Both are well equipped and maintained.

Regular visits are made to these premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The new department set up in April, 1951, under the control of a Cleansing Superintendent to co-ordinate the work of house refuse collection and street scavenging, has progressed satisfactorily. Particulars respecting this work are as follows:—

REFUSE COLLECTION GENERALLY.—The interval of collection of household and trade refuse was generally maintained at seven days. Collection vehicles of modern type, side loading, are in use, the fleet comprising one 10 cubic yard capacity and four 7 cubic yard capacity.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.—Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, in the main on Council-owned land where the levels of such land are improved to render it suitable for future playing field or open space development. Tips used during the year are as follows:—

Littleworth Clayhole.—This has been used extensively, good levels have been maintained, it has been well soiled, and the tipping life at this site is estimated at two years.

Hawkes Green.—Tipping of refuse ceased early in the year, and the land is available for ultimate conversion to a playing field.

Belt Road, adjoining the former Princess Street Tip.—This low lying land has been converted during the year into an additional open space or car park for use in conjunction with the adjoining Festival of Britain Sports Stadium.

Burgoyne Street: land at rear of Belt Road Schools.—Tipping operations were commenced during the year to convert this site of a former gravel pit into land suitable for school playing fields. Good levels have been maintained and it has been well soiled. The tipping life at this site is estimated at 18 months.

Private land off Cumberledge Hill, Cannock Wood.—This land has been used at the request of the owner to improve the levels for agricultural use. Refuse from the areas in close proximity only to the site is disposed of and its tipping life is estimated at 18 months.

CESSPOOLS.—During the year a 1,000 gallons capacity mechanically operated tanker vehicle was brought into commission for the emptying of cesspools in the Cannock Wood and Pye Green areas. The interval of emptying has been generally ten to fourteen days, and the contents are discharged from tanker to gravitation sewers for sewage disposal works treatment.

GULLY CLEANSING.—Since the introduction of the above machine on cesspools the 750 gallons capacity machine formerly in use for that purpose has been engaged on mechanical emptying of street gullies and flushing of foul sewers. This has resulted in a more efficient and hygienic disposal of gully contents than that formerly practiced in manual emptying by scoop.

STREET SCAVENGING.—This work has been carried out on a rota system by a combination of the beat method, using the street orderly truck and the operation of a 25-cwt. capacity motor truck with sliding dustproof covers. Shopping and town centres receive daily attention, and the open markets are cleared of resultant refuse. The increase of street litter has made this work more difficult, but nevertheless a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained throughout the area.

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